Japanese help for the development of Desert in Rajasthan

*39. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure of Rs. 2.69 crores was a meagre allocation for the project for afforestation and pasture development along Indira Gandhi Canal area in Rajasthan to arrest the wind erosion whose original cost is Rs. 107.5 crores for the period of five years;

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to finance this project in proportion to the estimated cost so as to complete the project as per schedule; and

(c) what would be the expected increase in agricultural production in the deserts of Rajasthan after the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan has stepped up the outlay under the project for Afforestation and Pesture Development taken up with the assistance of Oversees Economic Cooperation Fund Japan in the year 1991-92 to Rs. 9.50 crores. The State Government has proposed a total outlay of Rs. 103 crores during the 8th Plan commencing from 1st April, 1992.

(c) Afforestation and Pasture Development can be expected to minimise wind erosion and thereby prevent choking of canals, removal of fertile top soil from fields and lead to enhanced bio-mass production. These would promote improvements in both crop production and the animal husbandry sector.

Damages caused by earthquake in hill areas of Uttar Pradesh

*40. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent any study team with a view to assess the damage to life and property caused due to recent earthquake in Garhwal region;

(b) if so, what are the details the report submitted by the study team;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of persons had died in the hills of U.P. due to delay in providing relief;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in providing the relief; and

(e) whether any long term strategy has been formulated for the reconstruction of the earthquake ravaged area, including development of quake proof houses; if so, what are the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) A team of senior officers of the Central Government Departments was deputed on 21st October, 1991 to have the first hand information about the impact of the earthquaqe, relief measures being undertaken by the State Government and the immediate assistance required by the State Government to meet the situation. The report submitted by the Central Team was preliminary in nature. The team besides indicating the preliminary estimate of damage suggested immediate assistance to be provided for repair of damaged roads, tale-communications and power systems.